

Appl. No. 10/561,742
Amdt. dated July 10, 2007
Reply to Office action of April 16, 2007

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus comprising:

a cabinet (1) having external walls (2) and internal walls (3), said internal walls (3) defining an interior region (4) for receiving clothes;

a door (6) connected to said cabinet (1) for accessing said interior region (4);

at least a supporting device (5) for supporting clothes within said interior region (4);

a ventilator (7);

water supply means (8); and

an ultrasonic nebulizer (9) operatively associated to said water supply means (8);

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the air within said interior region (4) is recirculated by said ventilator (7) through an air duct (10) located between said internal walls (3) and said external walls (2) forming a closed loop with said interior region (4).

2. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said water supply means (8) comprising a removable water reservoir (15) feeding a pocket (16) hydraulically connected thereto.

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3. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 2 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said pocket (16) is associated with a water level measuring device (18) to monitor the absence of water inside said removable water reservoir (15).

4. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) extends substantially along the whole height of said apparatus.

5. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) includes heating means (30) to increase the temperature of the air.

6. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) includes filtering means (31) to purify the air from odours and/or undesirable particles.

7. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) is located on the opposite side of said cabinet (1) in respect to said door (6).

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8. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the recirculating airflow within said interior region (4) is
oriented in a substantially vertical direction.

9. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~
~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said air duct (10) comprises an air intake port (11) located
at the top of said interior region (4) and an air outlet port (12) located at the bottom of said
interior region (4).

10. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said air intake port (11) and said air outlet port (12) are covered by a protective
grate (13, 14).

11. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 9 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said air outlet port (12) contains at least a part of said pocket (16).

12. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 11 ~~characterized in that~~
wherein said pocket is associated to a conveyor (25) which directs at least a part of the air
flowing from said air duct (10) into said pocket (16) and allows said air mixed with the mist

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produced by the ultrasonic nebulizer (9) to escape from said pocket (16) accessing said interior region (4).

13. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 12 ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said conveyor (25) comprises a central body (27) shaped as a frustum of a cone and at least a tubular member (26) protruding therefrom.

14. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said ventilator (7) is a centrifugal ventilator.

15. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the working conditions of said apparatus are driven by an electronic control system.

16. (currently amended) A clothes treating apparatus according to ~~any of the preceding claims~~ ~~characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein said cabinet (1) has a structure adapted to be built-in.

17. (new) A clothes treating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ultrasonic nebulizer (9) introduces nebulized water into said interior region (4).